

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Previously Presented)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding hIrelp comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

2. **(Original)** A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1.

3. **(Previously Presented)** An isolated host cell transformed with the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1.

4. **(Original)** The cell of Claim 3, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

5. **(Original)** The cell of Claim 3, wherein the cell is a bacterial cell.

6. **(Cancelled)**

7. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated transfected cell producing the protein encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1. 6.

8-10. **(Cancelled)**

11. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,

b) a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,

c) a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising a biologically active fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment ~~comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2~~ having has an activity selected from the group consisting of biological activity kinase activity, endoribonuclease activity, and autophosphorylation activity, and

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